

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13743 01 OF 06 301121Z

20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 DPW-01 EB-04 IO-04

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 /076 W

----- 035651

R 301005Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9920

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13743 01 OF 06 301121Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 6 SAIGON 13743

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

USIS FOR IBS/NCA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM WEEKLY CEASEFIRE ASSESSMENT, OCTOBER 23-29, 1974

PART I -- SUMMARY

GENERAL ACTIVITY REMAINED LOW THROUGHOUT THE FOUR MILITARY REGIONS, WITH THE INCIDENT LEVEL DOWN MARKEDLY THIS WEEK. THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN MR-1, AND MR-2 REMAINED LOW. OF PARTICULAR NOTE WITH RESPECT TO THE FORMER IS A REPORT FROM THE 1ST AIR DIVISION A-2 THAT PHU BAI AIRBASE IS BEING USED AGAIN BY UNAF AIRCRAFT AS OF THE END OF THIS REPORTING PERIOD. ALSO WORTH NOTING CONCERNING THE LATTER IS THE CONTINUED RETENTION BY ARVN OF A COMMANDING POSITION IN THE AN LAO VALLEY IN THE FACE OF SIGNIFICANT NVA EFFORTS TO DISPLACE IT. THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN MR-3 WAS DOWN TO THE LOWEST POINT IN SEVEN MONTHS. IN KEEPING WITH THE PATTERN OF A MONTH-END CALM, ACTION IN MR-4 WAS ALSO MARKEDLY DOWN. THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THIS WEEK IN MR-1, WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 30 PERCENT. THE GVN IS STILL TRYING TO RETAKE MO TAU MOUNTAIN, AND THERE WAS MODERATE ACTIVITY IN THUA THIEN, QUANG NAM, AND QUANG NHAU PROVINCES. CIVILIAN CASUALTIES WERE HIGHER AS A RESULT OF THE NVA ARTILLERY ATTACKS ON BONG SON VILLAGE. ON THE OTHER HAND, MILITARY CASUALTIES WERE LOWER PARALLELING A LOWER TEMPO IN FIGHTING EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE MORE INCIDENTS IN BINH DINH THAN A WEEK AGO. THE ARVN 41ST REGIMENT WITHSTOOD INTENSE NVA EFFORTS TO RETAKE THE EASTERN HIGH GROUND OF THE AN LAO VALLEY. NVA FORCE MOVES REPORTED BY SECTOR S-2 INDICATE THAT THE COMMUNISTS WILL PERSIST IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO RETAKE THIS POSITION, WHICH IS IMPORTANT TO THE SECURITY OF THEIR NORTH-SOUTH SUPPLY ROUTE. USUALLY PEACEFUL NINH THUAN PROVINCE HAD A JOLT OCTOBER 26 WHEN COMMUNIST SAPPERS TRIED (UNSUCCESSFULLY) TO CUT THE ELECTRIC POWER LINE LEADING FROM THE DA NHIM HYDROELECTRIC PLANT. OVERALL COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IS DOWN IN BINH THUAN, WHERE THE PROVINCE CHIEF ATTRIBUTES THE RECENT HIGH LEVEL OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITY AS AN EFFORT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LESSENED GVN AIR SUPPORT AND AMMUNITION STOCKS. KONTUN AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 13743 01 OF 06 301121Z

PLEIKU WERE QUIETER THAN USUAL, ALTHOUGH A RF UNIT TO THE NORTHEAST OF KONTUM CITY TOOK A HEAVY POUNDING OCTOBER 28 AND THE GVN USED AIR STRIKES IN THE DUC CO AREA OF PLEIKU TO COUNTER A POSSIBLE ENEMY BUILDUP. SPECULATION CONTINUES ABOUT A GENERAL OFFENSIVE AGAINST KONTUM CITY, BUT THE PROVINCE CHIEF FEELS SUCH AN EFFORT WILL NOT BE MADE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, OR IN JANUARY. EVEN THEN HE SHARES MR-2 COMMANDER GENERAL TOAN'S VIEW THAT THE REAL AIM OF SUCH AN ATTACK WOULD BE PLEIKU CITY. BINH DUONG WAS AGAIN THE MOST AC-

TIVE MR-3 PROVINCE, ALTHOUGH MOST OF ITS ACTIVITY WAS RELATIVELY MINOR. THE CONTINUED COMMUNIST SAPPER AND TERRORIST EFFORT FOCUSED ON ROAD HARASSMENT, ASSASSINATION OR ABDUCTION OF LOCAL OFFICIALS AND LIGHT SHELLING OF OUTPOSTS. ROUTE 13, FOR EXAMPLE, IN TAY NINH PROVINCE WAS PARTICULARLY ACTIVE. RANGER AND TERRITORIAL FORCES IN BINH LONG PROVINCE SOUTH OF AN LOC ALSO RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION FROM THE COMMUNISTS. COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO HARASS CIVILIAN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS HAS RISEN RECENTLY IN THE NORTHERN DELTA AREA OF MR-4, WHERE 32 LABORERS WERE ABDUCTED IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE. TWENTY THREE OF THEM, HOWEVER, WERE LATER RELEASED. VC/NVA MINING OF ROUTE 29 IN KIEN TUONG PROVINCE IS HAVING A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE POPULACE, WHICH, BECAUSE OF ITS FEAR, IS NOT TRAVELING THE ROAD. ADDITIONALLY, MOC HAO HAS FROM TIME TO TIME BEEN ISOLATED. THERE WAS A FAIR AMOUNT OF ACTIVITY IN VINH BINH AND VINH LONG PROVINCES IN THE CENTRAL DELTA, WHERE THE VC/NVA -- WITH NO SHORTAGE OF AMMUNITION -- IS APPLYING PRESSURE ON A

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13743 02 OF 06 301513Z

42

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 DPW-01 EB-04 IO-04

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 /076 W

----- 038094

R 301005Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9921

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT HAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13743 02 OF 06 301513Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 6 SAIGON 13743

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

USIS FOR IBS/NCA

NUMBER OF OUTPOSTS. THE COMMUNISTS IN THIS SITUATION HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE OVER MANY OF THESE, WITH LOWER ORALE AND LESS EFFECTIVE TERRITORIAL FORCE LEADERSHIP JUDGED TO BE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS. THE BAC LIEU S-2 ANTICIPATES A COMMUNIST EFFORT TO EXACT TAXES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HARVEST SEASON IN THE SOUTHERN DELTA. ALTHOUGH THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY WAS CONSIDERABLY REDUCED IN BA XUYEN, THERE SEEMS TO BE A VC EFFORT TO EXPAND THEIR LIBERATED AREA AROUND "VC LAKE" IN NORTHERN HAI YEN OF AN XUYEN PROVINCE.

PART II -- ICCS

IN THE COMMISSION THE HUNGARIANS HAVE SO FAR CONTINUED TO USE THEIR MONTHLY CHAIRMANSHIP, WHICH EXPIRES OCTOBER 31, TO STALL ALL SUBSTANTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION, INCLUDING RESOLUTION OF THE POWERS AND DESIGNATION OF A DIRECTOR GENERAL. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR SADRY HAS RETURNED TO SAIGON AFTER A THREE-WEEK ABSENCE.

PART III -- FPJMT, TPJMC AND RELATED MATTERS

THE DRV/"PRG" BOYCOTT OF THE FPJMT AND TPJMC CONTINUED INTO ITS NINETEENTH WEEK.

PART IV -- COMMUNIST MEDIA COMMENT

A. COMMUNIST NON-RESPONSE TO EMBASSY STATEMENT. ON OCTOBER 26 THE

DRV MILITARY DELEGATION ISSUED A "COMMUNIQUE" BLASTING THE OCTOBER 21 STATEMENT FROM THIS EMBASSY AS AN ATTEMPT "TO DRAW THE PRESENT URBAN MOVEMENTS AWAY FROM AN OBJECTIVE OF THE STRUGGLE AND TO FOOL THE US CONGRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION" IN ORDER TO GET MORE AID FOR THE GVN. THE "COMMUNIQUE" DID NOT RESPOND TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE EMBASSY STATEMENT BUT, RATHER, REITERATED THE STANDARD LITANY OF ALLEGED US VIOLATIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. WITH RESPECT TO NORTH VIET NAM, THE "COMMUNIQUE" CHARGED THAT THE US HAD, AS RECENTLY AS OCTOBER 10

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 13743 02 OF 06 301513Z

AND 12, FLOWN AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS OVER NORTH VIET NAM AND WENT ON TO CONDEMN JCS CHAIRMAN GENERAL BROWN'S REMARK THAT, IF AUTHORIZED, US AIRCRAFT COULD BE OVER TARGETS IN THE NORTH WITHIN HOURS. INTERESTINGLY, THE "COMMUNIQUE" DID NOT REFER TO THE ALLEGED "FILURE" OF THE US TO LIVE UP TO ITS "OBLIGATION" TO AID NORTH VIET NAM, A STANDARD FEATURE OF PREVIOUS COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA OF THIS TYPE.

B. COMMUNISTS CONDEMN ALLEGED LOC NINH BOMBINGS. THE DRV AND "PRG" FOREIGN MINISTRIES AND THE "PRG" DELEGATION TO THE TPJMC ALLEGED THAT THE GVN HAD SENT VNAF PLANES TO BOMB LOC NINH AND ENVIRONS ON OCTOBER 26. THE "PRG" STATEMENT, DATED OCTOBER 27, CHARGED THAT THE ALLEGED RAIDS HAD CAUSED "HEAVY LOSSES IN LIVES AND PROPERTY" AND HAD "SERIOUSLY" DAMAGED THE RUNWAY OF THE LOC NINH AIRFIELD. THE LESS LENGTHY DRV STATEMENT, PREDICTABLY, VOICED "FULL SUPPORT" FOR THE "PRG" PROTEST.

C. VIET CONG PARIS DELEGATION RAPS UN RESOLUTION ON MIA'S. AVERRING THAT THE US WAS ATTEMPTING TO "ELUDE" ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PARIS AGREEMENT, INCLUDING ARTICLE 8, THE "PRG" DELEGATION TO THE LA CELLA ST. CLOUD BILATERAL TALKS CONDEMNED A US-SUPPORTED RESOLUTION ON MISSION MILITARYMEN, WHICH IS CURRENTLY IN COMMITTEE AT THE UNGA. IN ITS OCTOBER 27 STATEMENT, THE DELEGATION CHARGED THAT THE MIA ISSUE "HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE UNITED NATIONS" AND THAT ALL PROBLEMS ARISING FROM "THE US WAR OF AGGRESSION", INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8(B), MUST BE SETTLED UNDER THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

D. "PRG" FOREIGN MINISTRY ON "WITHDRAWAL" OF US TECHNICIANS. ON OCTOBER 24 THE "PRG" FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ISSUED A STATEMENT CLAIMING THAT THE "ALLEGATION" THAT A NUMBER OF "US ADVISORS" INVOLVED IN AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE WOULD BE "WITHDRAWN" WAS AIMED AT "SOOTHING BROAD PUBLIC OPINION" IN THE US WHICH IS "RESOLUTELY DEMANDING" THAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION CEASE SUPPORT TO THE GVN. IMPLYING THAT THESE TECHNICIANS ARE AMONG THE "25,000 MILITARY PERSONNEL IN CIVILIAN DISGUISE" WHICH THE COMMUNISTS ALLEGE ARE PRESENT IN SOUTH VIET NAM, THE STATEMENT NOTED THAT THE US WAS NOT "AUTHORIZED TO LEAVE ANY MILITARY

PERSONNEL" AND DEMANDED THAT THESE REMAINING BE "WITHDRAWN."

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13743 03 OF 06 301912Z

46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 NSA-01 AID-05 DPW-01 EB-04

IO-04 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 /077 W

----- 040829

R 301005Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9922

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAL SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

ZEN/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIETNIA NE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13743 03 OF 06 301912Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 6 SAIGON 13743

USIS FOR IBS/NCA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART IV - MR 1

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

I CORPS HQS BRIEFED 217 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS THIS WEEK, A SUBSTANTIAL DECREASE FROM LAST WEEK'S 310. OVERALL ACTIVITY CONTINUES AT A LOW LEVEL EXCEPT FOR ISOLATED FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN THUA THIEN, IN QUANG NAM, AND QUANG NGAI. GVN CASUALTIES: 118 KIA; 474 WIA; 7 MIA. COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE: 260 KIA, 1 CAPTURED; 1 RETURNEE. VNAF FLEW 154 COMBAT AIR SORTIES.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

GENERALLY, COMMUNIST ACTIVITY DECREASED DURING THE WEEK. THE ONLY CONTACT BETWEEN GVN AND COMMUNIST FORCES IN QUANG TRI (P), OCCURED ON OCT 22 RESULTING IN LIGHT CASUALTIES. IN THUA THIEN (P) ACTIVITY CONTINUED TO CENTER AROUND THE AREA OF MO TAU MOUNTAIN AND NUI BONG SOUTHEAST OF HUE CITY. ON THE MORNING OF OCT 23, THE COMMUNISTS ATTACKED A GVN UNIT AT NUI BONG WHICH SHORTLY THEREAFTER WITHDREW AND ABANDONED THE POSITION. SUBSEQUENT DAILY ATTEMPTS BY GVN FORCES TO RETAKE THIS HILL HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL AND IT REMAINS IN COMMUNIST CONTROL. IN THE SAME AREA, GVN FORCES ARE STAGING COUNTERATTACKS ATTEMPTING TO RETAKE MO TAU MOUNTAIN. TO DATE, LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN REPORTED DUE TO STRONG COMMUNIST RESISTANCE.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN CENTRAL QUANG NAM (P), GVN AIRBORNE UNITS IN THE VICINITY OF HILL 52 AND RANGER UNITS NEAR DUC DUC HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO DAILY ABF'S AND GROUND ATTACKS RESULTING IN LIGHT CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES. ON OCT 24, A COMMERCIAL BUS ACTIVATED A COMMUNIST MINE SOUTHWEST OF QUE SON IN QUANG NAM (P), RESULTING IN 8 CIVILIANS KILLED AND 1 INJURED. ON 26 OCT, THE JEEP OF THE DUY XUYEN SUB-SECTOR COMMANDER STRUCK A MINE IN DUY XUYEN (D)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 13743 03 OF 06 301912Z

KILLING 4 PERSONS INCLUDING THE SUB-SECTOR COMMANDER AND WOUNDING

ANOTHER. NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED IN QUANG TIN PROVINCE. IN QUANG NGAI (P), THE COMMUNISTS HAVE CONTINUED MIXED SHELLING AND GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST GVN UNITS NEAR NGHIA HANH. TRAFFIC ON Q.L. 1 WAS INTERRUPTED BY FLOOD CONDITIONS WHICH WASHED OUT SEVERAL CULVERTS. THEY HAVE BEEN BY-PASSED WHILE AWAITING REPAIR. ON OCT 26, A CULVERT ON ROUTE 534 REPORTEDLY DAMAGED AS A RESULT OF COMMUNIST SABOTAGE WAS REPAIRED AND TRAFFIC RESUMED WITHIN THREE HOURS.

4. ICCS:

THE ICCS CONDUCTED NO INVESTIGATIONS OR OBSERVATIONS IN MR-1 DURING THE WEEK.

PART V - MR 2

1. SUMMARY: MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR-II THIS WEEK REMAINED AT THE SAME RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL AS LAST. THE COASTAL PROVINCES, PARTICULARLY BINH DINH, SAW MOST OF THE ACTION WHILE THE HIGHLAND PROVINCES WERE UNUSUALLY QUIET. THE ARVN 41ST REGT CONTINUED TO HOLD THE HIGH GROUND ON THE EASTERN SLOPE OF THE AN LAO VALLEY IN BINH DINH AND TO HARASS THE COMMUNIST SUPPLY LINE. FURTHER SOUTH, IN VC MR-VI, COMMUNIST FORCES CONTINUED THEIR HARASSING ATTACKS IN THE LUONG SON AREA OF BINH THUAN PROVINCE AND KIDNAPPED 9 PSDF IN TICH CHAM HAMLET 8 KMS NORTHWEST OF TUY PHONG. IN PLEIKU, THE PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY CONSISTED OF GVN AIR STRIKES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK AGAINST SUSPECTED ENEMY LOCATIONS IN THE DUC CO AREA. KONTUM REPORTED ALMOST NO ACTIVITY AT ALL UNTIL OCT 28TH WHEN AN RF BTN HEADQUARTERS WAS OVERRUN RESULTING IN 40 MIA. CORPS HQS REPORTED 65 ENEMY INITIATED INCIDENTS (THE SAME AS LAST WEEK) AND 60 GVN KIA VERSUS 112 COMMUNISTS. LAST WEEK'S FIGURES WERE 61 GVN KIA TO 142 COMMUNISTS. WEAPONS LOST REPORTEDLY NUMBERED 25 AGAINST 29 COMMUNIST WEAPONS CAPTURED. THIS COMPARES FAVORABLY WITH LAST WEEK WHEN 42 WEAPONS WERE LOST AGAINST 41 CAPTURED. HELICOPTER SORTIES INCREASED BY 113 TO 784 LAST WEEK WHILE AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS DECREASED 46 TO 119. TAC AIR SORTIES SHOWED A SLIGHT INCREASE OF 20 TO 124.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13743 04 OF 06 301239Z

46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 DPW-01 EB-04 IO-04

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 /076 W

----- 036385

R 301005Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9923

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

USIA WASHDC

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAL SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIETNIAE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13743 04 OF 06 301239Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 6 SAIGON 13743

USIS FOR IBS/NCA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

2. BINH DINH: WHILE THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN BINH DINH
INCREASED SLIGHTLY THIS WEEK, THE INTENSITY OF FIGHTING DECREASED
AND MILITARY CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES DROPPED. CIVILIAN CASUALTIES,
HOWEVER, INCREASED AS NVA ARTILLERY CONTINUED TO PUNISH BONG SON
(HOAI NHON) VILLAGE ON QL-1. ON OCTOBER 25, THE VILLAGE ELEMENTARY

SCHOOL WAS HIT KILLING 1 STUDENT AND WOUNDING 5 OTHERS; 1 ADULT WAS ALSO KILLED. MEANWHILE, THE ARVN 41ST REGT CONTINUES TO HOLD THE HIGH GROUND ON THE EASTERN SLOPE OF THE AN LAO VALLEY DESPITE VIGOROUS NVA ATTEMPTS TO DISLODGE IT. AERIAL OBSERVATION HAS NOW CONFIRMED THE EARLIER REPORT THAT PF UNITS HAVE CAUSED 50 PERCENT DAMAGE TO A BRIDGE ON THE COMMUNIST SUPPLY ROUTE IN THE AN LAO VALLEY (BS 744087) AND THAT TRAFFIC HAS BEEN HALTED. SECTOR S-

2

REPORTS THAT THE NVA 3RD DIVISION HQS HAS MOVED NORTHWARD TO A LOCATION ABOUT 9 KMS WNW OF BONG SON. MOVES OF THIS NATURE OFTEN HERALD INCREASED ACTION AND IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT THE ARVN 41ST REGT IN THE AN LAO VALLEY MAY RECEIVE MORE CONCENTRATED ATTENTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. REPORTS PERSIST THAT THE NVA 17TH ARTILLERY BTN. HAS RECEIVED A 130 MM CANNON. IF SO, IT WILL BE THE FIRST TIME THAT THIS LONG-RANGE WEAPON HAS BEEN SEEN IN BINH DINH.

3. NINH THUAN/BINH THUAN: NINH THUAN PROVINCE CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF THE MOST PEACEFUL IN MR-II. HOWEVER ON OCTOBER 26, COMMUNIST SAPPERS ATTEMPTED TO CUT THE ELECTRIC POWER LINE LEADING FROM THE DA NHIM HYDROELECTRIC PLANT. THEIR ATTEMPT FAILED AND ONLY A SECONDARY LINE SERVING ONE OF THE RESETTLEMENT CAMPS WAS SLIGHTLY DAMAGED. THE PROVINCE EXPECTS FURTHER ATTEMPTS AGAINST THE LINE TO BE MADE. IN BINH THUAN, COMMUNIST ACTIVITY DECREASED SOMEWHAT FROM THE HIGH LEVEL WHICH HAS BEEN MAINTAINED FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. NEVERTHELESS, A TOTAL OF 15 INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED RESULTING IN 6 GVN TROOPERS KIA AND 11 WIA. IN ONE INCIDENT, COMMUNIST FORCES ENTERED TICH CHAM HAMLET LOCATED 8 KMS NW OF TUY PHONG, ASSASSINATED THE HAMLET CHIEF AND ONE PSDF MEMBER AND CAPTURED 9 OTHER PSDF TOGETHER WITH THEIR WEAPONS. THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 13743 04 OF 06 301239Z

PROVINCE CHIEF, COLONEL NGHIA, BELIEVES THAT COMMUNIST FORCES ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF GVN AIR SUPPORT AND ARTILLERY SHORTAGES TO ATTACK GVN UNITS AND INSTALLATIONS IN MASS. HE ALSO COMPLAINS OF SHORTAGES IN 60 AND 81 MM MORTAR AMMO, M-79 ROUNDS, HAND GRENADES AND CLAYMORE MINES. BECAUSE OF THIS SITUATION, HE SAYS MORALE AMONG HIS TROOPS IS LOW.

4. KONTUM/PLEIKU: ACTIVITY WAS REMARKABLY SLOW IN THESE USUALLY BUSY PROVINCES. ALMOST NOTHING HAPPENED IN KONTUM UNTIL THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF OCTOBER 28 WHEN THE HQS OF THE 253RD RF BTN LOCATED 12 KILOMETERS NNE OF KONTUM CITY RECEIVED AN ESTIMATED 400 MORTAR ROUNDS FOLLOWED BY A GROUND ATTACK. THE 50 MAN HQS UNIT WAS QUICKLY OVERRUN, BUT 10 SURVIVORS MADE IT BACK TO GVN LINES. THE BALANCE OF 40 ARE STILL MIA. LATE IN THE DAY, THE 1ST AND 3 RD COMPANIES OF THE 253 SUCCEEDED IN BEATING OFF SIMILAR ATTACKS. THE COMMUNIST UNIT WAS NOT FULLY IDENTIFIED BUT IS BELIEVED TO BE THE K-37 BN. EARLIER SPECULATION THAT THIS ACTION MIGHT BE THE START OF A GENERAL OFFENSIVE AGAINST KONTUM

CITY, WAS DISCOUNTED BY THE PROVINCE CHIEF WHO BELIEVES THAT COMMUNIST FORCES WILL NOT ATTEMPT SUCH AN OFFENSIVE BEFORE LATE NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER - POSSIBLY EVEN JANUARY - AND THEN WILL DRIVE AGAINST PLEIKU. MEANWHILE IN PLEIKU, THERE WERE A SERIES OF SMALL GROUND ATTACKS AND SHELLINGS WEST AND SW OF THE CITY BUT THE PRIMARY ACTIONS CONSISTED OF GVN AIR STRIKES AGAINST A SUSPECTED ENEMY BUILD-UP IN AND AROUND DUC CO. THESE AIR STRIKES ARE CONTINUING. THE II CORPS COMMANDER, GENERAL TOAN, BELIEVES THAT NVA FORCES ARE PLANNING AN ATTACK AGAINST PLEIKU IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

5. OTHER: IN DARLAC, POLICE OPERATIONS CONTINUED AGAINST MONTAGNARD DISSIDENT ELEMENTS AND SOME "VC HARASSING ACTIVITY" WAS BELIEVED TO BE DISSIDENT RELATED. IN QUANG DUC, HIGHWAY 14 WAS INTERDICTED BRIEFLY AND A CIVILIAN LOGGING TRUCK DESTROYED. THE NVA 271ST REGT, WHICH HAS BEEN THE PRIMARY THREAT TO GVN FORCES IN QUANG DUC FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, IS NOW BELIEVED TO HAVE MOVED OUT--REPORTEDLY TO III CORPS.

6. ICCS: SOMNAMBULANT.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13743 05 OF 06 301248Z

46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 DPW-01 EB-04 IO-04

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 /076 W

----- 036485

R 301005Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9924

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACTHAI
USDEL SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIETNIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13743 05 OF 06 301248Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 5 OF 6 SAIGON 13743

USIS FOR IBS/NCA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART VI - MR3

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR-3 DECLINED TO THE LOWEST WEEKLY LEVEL IN SEVEN MONTHS. COMMUNISTS MAINTAINED THEIR MONTH-LONG CONCENTRATION ON SAPPER AND TERRORIST ATTACKS CONSISTING MAINLY OF HARASSMENT OF ROADS, ASSASSINATION OR ABDUCTION OF GVN LOCAL OFFICIALS, AND LIGHT SHELLING OF GVN OUTPOSTS. CONTACT BETWEEN MAIN FORCE UNITS WAS LARGELY LIMITED TO ABF EXCHANGES IN THE BEN CAT AND TAN UYEN AREAS. AS THE WEEK ENDED THE 18TH DIVISION LAUNCHED AN OPERATION IN NORTHERN BIEN HOA PROVINCE TO BREAK UP NVA/VC EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH AN OPERATING BASE FROM WHICH TO ATTACK THE NORTHERN APPROACHES TO SAIGON.

2. THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS THIS PERIOD DECLINED TO 128 FROM LAST WEEK'S 144. MILITARY INCIDENTS REPORTED BY MR-3 HQS INCLUDED 34 GROUND CONTACTS (35 LAST WEEK), 52 ATTACKS BY FIRE (44 LAST WEEK), 2 COMBINED GROUND AND ABF, 22 MINING INCIDENTS, AND 18 MISCELLANEOUS ACTIONS. THERE WERE 35 INCIDENTS IN BINH DUONG (COMPARED WITH 44 LAST WEEK), 25 IN BIEN HOA (15 LAST WEEK), AND 20 IN TAY NINH (11 LAST WEEK).

3. THE NVA/VC FIRED 964 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY AND MORTAR, UP

SLIGHTLY FROM 624 LAST PERIOD. RVNAF EXPENDED 5,798 ARTILLERY ROUNDS (5,526 LAST WEEK). VNAF FLEW 89 FIXED-WING SORTIES (33 BY F-5 AND 56 BY A-37). HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS FLEW 151 SUPPORT MISSIONS.

4. GVN CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS 29 KIA, 127 WIA, AND 6 MIA, WHILE NVA/VC LOSSES WERE 36 KIA AND 9 RALLIERS. ADDITIONALLY, VNAF REPORTED 10 NVA/VC KILLED BY AIR.

5. BINH DUONG PROVINCE REMAINED THE MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE IN MR-3 WITH MOST OF ITS REPORTED INCIDENTS TAKING THE FORM OF ABF'S AND SMALL GROUND CONTACTS. DURING THIS PERIOD THE OP 82 AND PHU THU AREAS SOUTHWEST OF BEN CAT HAD SIX GROUND CONTACTS AND ABF'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 13743 05 OF 06 301248Z

TOTALING 120 ROUNDS OF MIXED ORDNANCE. GVN CASUALTIES WERE 10 WOUNDED WHILE THE NVA/VC LOSSES WERE THREE KILLED.

6. IN BIEN HOA PROVINCE ACTIVITY INCREASED BECAUSE OF EFFORTS BY THE 18TH ARVN DIV TO PUSH COMMUNIST FORCES BACK IN NORTHERN TAN UYEN DISTRICT. SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN ONLY A FEW LIGHT CONTACTS AND MINING INCIDENTS. THE LARGEST CONTACT IN BIEN HOA OCCURRED ON OCT 23 WHEN AN ARMORED TASK FORCE NIGHT POSITION, EIGHT KMS NORTHWEST OF BIEN HOA TOWN, RECEIVED A SAPPER ATTACK AFTER TAKING 120 ROUNDS OF MORTAR FIRE. CASUALTIES WERE TWO KIA AND FIVE WIA FOR THE GVN WHILE THE NVA/VC LOST FIVE KIA. ON OCT 28 THE PHUOC THO VILLAGE CHIEF AND ONE POLICEMAN WERE KILLED AND SIX OTHERS WOUNDED IN A MINE INCIDENT 14 KMS SOUTHEAST OF NHON TRACH DISTRICT TOWN. IN LONG AN VILLAGE TWO KMS SOUTH OF LONG THANH DISTRICT TOWN THE VILLAGE DEPUTY CHIEF FOR ADMINISTRATION AND A CIVILIAN WERE KILLED WHEN TERRORISTS PLANTED A MINE OUTSIDE THE DEPUTY CHIEF'S HOME.

7. IN GIA DINH PROVINCE SAPPERS CONTINUED THE CAMPAIGN OF ATTACKS AIMED AT GVN OFFICIALS. TWO HAMLET OFFICES, ONE 14 KMS THE OTHER 13 KMS WEST OF SAIGON, WERE HIT OCT 24 BY B-40 ROCKETS. BOTH STRUCTURES WERE DAMAGED AND FIVE PERSONS WERE WOUNDED IN THE ATTACKS. ON OCT 24 COMMUNIST TERRORISTS FIRED TWO B-40 ROCKETS AT THE VINH BINH HAMLET SCHOOL 12 KMS WEST OF SAIGON. FOUR CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED AND THE SCHOOL WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED.

8. ROUTE 13 FROM BEN SOI TO LUU BUU LAM POST IN TAY NINH PROVINCE WAS ALSO THE SCENE OF INCREASED ACTIVITY. ON OCT 22 SOLDIERS FROM THE 25TH DIV ENTERED LUU BUU LAM POST AND PLANTED THE GVN FLAG. THEY WERE IMMEDIATELY SUBJECTED TO A MORTAR ATTACK AND WITHDREW. ON OCT 26 ARVN FORCES OPERATING OUTSIDE THE POST'S PERIMETER RECEIVED 230 ROUNDS OF MORTAR FIRE FOLLOWED BY A GROUND ATTACK. GOVERNMENT LOSSES WERE FIVE WIA WHILE THE NVA HAD FIVE KIA. BEN SOI RECEIVED 3 ABF'S TOTALLING 43 MORTAR ROUNDS. ONE SOLDIER WAS KILLED.

9. RANGER AND TERRITORIAL FORCES LOCATED IN POSITIONS 5 TO 7 KMS SOUTH OF AN LOC IN BINH LONG PROVINCE WERE ALSO A TARGET OF NVA ATTACKS. IN 15 ABF'S TOTALLING 620 ROUNDS OF MORTAR AND GRENADE FIRE, GOVERNMENT TROOPS SUFFERED TWO KILLED AND SEVEN WOUNDED. AN LOC SECTOR CAME UNDER FIRE ON OCT 28 WHEN IT RECEIVED 60 ROUNDS OF ASSORTED MORTAR FIRE. CASUALTIES WERE 1 KIA AND 3 WIA.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 13743 05 OF 06 301248Z

10. ELSEWHERE IN MR-3 A HAMLET CHIEF IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE WAS KILLED AND HIS DEPUTY WOUNDED WHEN, ON OCT 24, AN NVA/VC FORCE ATTACKED THE PHUOC HAO HAMLET OFFICE FIVE KMS NORTHWEST OF TRANG BANG DISTRICT TOWN. IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE A PF PLATOON ON A ROAD CLEARING MISSION ALONG QL 20 (ROAD TO DALAT) WAS AMBUSHED 7 KMS SOUTHWEST OF DINH QUAN DISTRICT TOWN ON OCT 22. THE TERRITORIALS SUFFERED TWO KIA AND FOUR WIA.

11. ICCS: ACTIVITIES IN ICCS REGION V WERE LIMITED TO AN INDONESIAN OBSERVATION ON OCT 22 IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE WHERE INDODEL VISITED THE SITE OF AN NVA/VC ATTACK ON A PSDF UNIT RESULTING IN 4 PSDF WOUNDED AND SEVERAL BUILDINGS DESTROYED.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13743 06 OF 06 301253Z

46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 DPW-01 EB-04 IO-04

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 /076 W

----- 036508

R 301005Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9925

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS UNN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAL SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIETNIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13743 06 OF 06 301253Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 6 OF 6 SAIGON 13743

USIS FOR IBS/NCA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART VII - MR 4

1. MILITARY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL SECURITY: ACTIVITY DROPPED SHARPLY, AS THE DELTA MOVED INTO ITS NORMAL END-OF-MONTH LULL. EXCEPTIONS TO OVERALL PATTERN WERE KIEN PHONG PROVINCE, WHERE VC/NVA UNITS RENEWED EFFORTS TO SECURE LOGISTIC BASE AREAS, AND AN XUYEN PROVINCE, WHERE THEY ARE TRYING TO INCREASE LIBERATED AREA AROUND "VC LAKE." CORPS REPORTS 229 VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS (344 LAST WEEK), CONSISTING OF 20 GROUND ATTACKS (51), ONE INFILTRATION (ONE), 136 ABF'S (210), 48 HARASSMENTS (63), 17 SABOTAGE (12), 6 TERRORIST (6), AND ONE BETRAYAL (ONE). GVN LOSSES DROPPED TO 130 KIA (149), 563 WIA (673), 20 MIA (50), AND ONE CREW-SERVED (3) AND 92 INDIVIDUAL (255) WEAPONS LOST. CORPS CLAIMS 432 VC/NVA KILLED (442), 18 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (34), AND 12 CREW-SERVED (14) AND 93 INDIVIDUAL (102) WEAPONS SEIZED.

(B) NORTHERN DELTA: IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE, ACTIVITY WAS AT A FAIRLY LOW LEVEL, BUT 32 CIVILIAN LABORERS ON A CANAL PROJECT WERE ABDUCTED (23 LATER RELEASED). HARASSMENT OF GVN CIVIL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS HAS INCREASED IN RECENT WEEKS WITH THE MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT BEING THE CAPTURE OF A DREDGE. ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE, THERE WAS ANOTHER INCIDENT ON HIGHWAY 4, THIS TIME AN EVENING SHOOTING AT A NATIONAL POLICE JEEP IN SAM GIANG (D). KIEN TUONG PROVINCE REMAINED FAIRLY QUIET, BUT VC/NVA MININGS OF ROUTE 29 SOUTH OF THE DINH TUONG BORDER ARE PERIODICALLY INTERRUPTING TRAFFIC. ALL TRAFFIC WAS INTERRUPTED FOR ALMOST TWO DAYS BY ROAD DAMAGE, AND THE FEW BUSES STILL TRAVELLING ARE ALMOST EMPTY BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE AFRAID TO TRAVEL THE ROAD. IN KIEN PHONG PROVINCE, VC/NVA EFFORTS WERE CONCENTRATED ON THAP MUOI CANAL IN MY AN (D). TWO OB'S ON THE CANAL WERE OVERRUN, ONE SUBSEQUENTLY RETAKEN. TWO OTHER PLATOON-SIZE OB'S WERE ALSO OVERRUN AS GROUND ATTACKS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE DOUBLED TO TEN INCIDENTS. NORMALLY QUIET CHAU DOC PROVINCE REPORTS THREE SIGNIFICANT GROUND ATTACKS, TWO AGAINST PSDF POSITIONS IN TRI TAN AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 13743 06 OF 06 301253Z

TINH BIEN DISTRICTS AND ONE AGAINST A PF PLATOON OB IN NORTHERN AN PHU (D). 9 PF AND 6 VC/NVA WERE KILLED IN THE LATTER INCIDENT.

(C) CENTRAL DELTA: IN KIEN HOA PROVINCE, A BRIDGE ON ROUTE 30 IN MY CAY (D) WAS BLOWN UP; TRAFFIC IS EXPECTED TO BE INTERDICTED FOR A WEEK. THE PROVINCE CAPITAL WAS AGAIN SUBJECTED TO A TERRORIST ATTACK, THIS ONE A PLASTIQUE EXPLOSION IN A RESTAURANT WHICH KILLED TWO CIVILIANS AND WOUNDED TWO OTHERS. IN VINH BINH PROVINCE, ONE OUTPOST WAS OVERRUN AND DEFENDERS OF TWO OTHERS WITHDREW WITHOUT A FIGHT. FIGHTING WAS HEAVIEST IN LONG TOAN (D) WHERE GVN FORCES REPORTEDLY REOCCUPIED LONG VINH (V), WHICH WAS OVERRUN LAST WEEK. IN VINH LONG PROVINCE, THREE OB'S WERE ABANDONED WITHOUT A FIGHT, BUT VC/NVA ATTACKS APPEARED TO BE LETTING UP AT THE END OF THE WEEK. VC/NVA UNITS APPEAR TO ENJOY PLENTIFUL AMMO SUPPLIES AS LARGE QUANTITIES OF ALL TYPES WERE FIRED AT GVN TARGETS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE. NONETHELESS, HIGH NUMBER OF OB'S ABANDONED IN VINH LONG AND VINH BINH IN RECENT WEEKS INDICATE RF/PF MORALE AND LEADERSHIP PROBLEMS ARE AT LEAST AS SERIOUS A THREAT AS VC/NVA EFFECTIVENESS. IN PHONG DINH PROVINCE, ABOUT 50 VC/NVA ATTACKED A PF PLATOON OB IN PHUNG HIEP (D), KILLING ONE PF AND WOUNDING TWO. BEFORE WITHDRAWING, THE ATTACKERS BLEW UP 6 METERS OF BRIDGE ON HIGHWAY 4 ABOUT TWO KM N OF THE DISTRICT TOWN. PHONG DIEN DISTRICT TOWN WAS SHELLLED AGAIN (10X82MM WHICH WOUNDED 6 CIVILIANS). IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE, ACTIVITY HAS INCREASED IN HIEU LHE (D). THE RF BN OPERATING THERE HAD THREE CONTACTS, ONE OF WHICH RESULTED IN 23 RF MIA. ANOTHER RF BN OPERATING ON THE KIEN TAN/KIEN BINH DISTRICT BORDER HAS BEEN MORE SUCCESSFUL, KILLING 10 VC/NVA IN TWO CONTACTS. FOUR VILLAGE HQ AND THREE DISTRICT TOWNS WERE SHELLLED CAUSING MINOR DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES.

(D) SOUTHERN DELTA: ACTIVITY IN BA XUYEN PROVINCE DECLINED SHARPLY, PARTICULARLY IN LONG PHU AND KE SACH DISTRICTS. AN ARVN SOLDIER AND HIS WIFE WERE KILLED BY SNIPER FIRE ON HIGHWAY 4 IN MY XUYEN (D) AT 0715 HOURS. IN AN UNUSUAL INCIDENT, AN RF BN DISCOVERED AND FOILED A SAPPER ATTEMPT AGAINST AN OB IN SW NGA NAM (D) WHICH WAS ATTEMPTED UNDER HEAVY ABF; TWO VC WERE KILLED. IN BAC LIEU, AN OB IN PHUOC LONG (D) WAS OVERRUN WITH INSIDE HELP. LATEST REPORT LISTS 7 PF KIA, 4 DEPENDENTS KILLED, AND 7 PF MIA (4 OF THEM TRAITORS). S-2 BELIEVES VC/NVA ACTIVITY WILL SOON INCREASE IN SUPPORT OF TAX-COLLECTING EFFORT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 13743 06 OF 06 301253Z

DURING HARVEST SEASON, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON VINH CHAU AND GIA RAI DISTRICTS. IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE, THERE WAS A MINING INCIDENT ON ROUTE 31 IN DUC LONG (D). ALTHOUGH MININGS OF ROUTE 31 ON THE PHONG DINH SIDE OF THE BORDER ARE INCREASINGLY COMMON, THIS IS THE FIRST SUCH INCIDENT IN CHUONG THIEN IN MONTHS. VI THANHDS, YPIRED ON HOA LUU (V) KILLED ONE CIVILIAN AND WOUNDED 7. IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE, GVN FORCES HAVE NOT RETAKEN TWO OB'S LOST LAST WEEK IN HAI YEN (D), AND ABANDONMENT OF A THIRD THIS WEEK LEADS TO CONCLUSION THAT VC ARE EXPANDING LIBERATED AREA AROUND "VC LAKE" IN NORTHERN HAI YEN.

2. GVN AFFAIRS: GVN OFFICIALS SO-FAR SUCCESSFUL EFFORT QUIET MILITANT BUDDHISTS IN BAC LIEU WERE THREATENED LAST WEEK WHEN SECRETARY-GENERAL OF CAMBODIAN BUDDHIST PROVINCE CHAPTER WAS STOPPED AND THREATENED BY TWO MEN, ONE OF WHOM WAS LATER IDENTIFIED AS NATIONAL POLICE OFFICER. PROVINCE CHIEF HAS CONSOLED BUDDHISTS AND INSTITUTED INVESTIGATION.

3. ICCS AFFAIRS: EIGHT MEMBERS OF REGION VI HUNGDEL VISITED COCONUT MONK FOR TWO HOURS ON HIS ISLAND IN KIEN HOA (P). PURPOSE OF VISIT NOT KNOWN, BUT VISITORS WERE WARMLY GREETED BY MONK'S STAFF. MARTIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMBAT ZONES, COMBAT CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON13743
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740310-0042
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974106/aaaaaeyg.tel
Line Count: 911
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 17
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIET-NAM WEEKLY CEASEFIRE ASSESSMENT, OCTOBER 23-29, 1974 PART I -- SUMMARY
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005